



To Senator Miller, Representative Garibay and esteemed members of the Aging Committee

Testimony in support of Raised Senate Bill 171, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT TO ASSIST ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS.

C4A members respectfully request the Committee's consideration of Raised Bill 171, an Act establishing a revolving loan account to assist elderly homeowners. Raised Senate Bill 171 would provide emergency funding to older homeowners meeting specific criteria who may otherwise lose their housing and any future economic security. The promise of a longer lifespan is sometimes accompanied by a reduction of assets that threatens economic security and jeopardizes safe, affordable housing. Medical spending in the three years before death accounts for 13.4 per cent of aggregate medical spending as compared to 6.7 percent at all ages.¹ Fixed income coupled with a lack of assets and higher health expenses results in housing insecurity. Raised Senate Bill 171 is a cost-effective way to support the independence of older adults while ensuring the return of loans through the lien process.

Testimony in support of Raised Senate Bill 173, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF PERMITTING THE COMMUNITY SPOUSE OF AN INSTITUTIONALIZED MEDICAID RECIPIENT TO RETAIN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ALLOWABLE ASSETS.

C4A members respectfully request the Committee's consideration for RSB 173, an Act concerning a study of the cost and feasibility of permitting the community spouse of an institutionalized Medicaid recipient to retain the maximum amount of allowable assets. Allowing the community spouse to retain the maximum amount of assets could decrease the anxiety and reduce the community spouse's reliance on State assistance for their own care. Currently, a couple with \$100,000 in savings would face a \$50,000 reduction of the asset for the community dwelling spouse. An increase in the amount

of retainable assets would allow the community spouse to keep additional funds available to support in-home services to meet his/her own needs. Connecticut currently allows the community spouse to retain half of the couple's countable assets up to \$137,400 (the federal maximum). The federal minimum resource standard is \$27,480, meaning that a community spouse can keep 100% of assets up to that amount. Increasing to the maximum amount of allowable assets makes good sense for Connecticut and supports the individual desire to remain at home with a modicum of economic security.

Testimony in support of Raised Senate Bill 174, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

C4A supports Raised Senate Bill 174, an Act concerning a Study of Long-Term Care Needs. The Study may be able to further align programs administered by the Department of Social Services with Programs funded by the Older Americans Act and the Department of Aging & Disability Services. This alignment could result in a safety net for Connecticut residents in need of immediate supports while awaiting a Medicaid eligibility decision. It could also help identify gaps and social determinants that pose barriers to community living. The Connecticut Agencies on Aging look forward to supporting the work of the Study if approved.

This testimony is submitted by Marie Allen, President Southwestern CT Agency on Aging on behalf of Connecticut's five regional Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). The Agencies on Aging represent individuals in every Connecticut city and town and are the "point of entry" for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers in need of assistance navigating and enrolling in local, State and Federal services.

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6680320/>